

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
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S E C R E T BEIRUT 4292

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, IS, LE
SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON: MOVEMENT OF LEBANESE TROOPS

REF: TEL AVIV 9578

1. APPRECIATE DETERMINED WAY IN WHICH SAM LEWIS HAS PRE-
SENTED TO WEIZMAN IMPORTANCE OF COOPERATING ON LEBANESE
MOVE TO SOUTH. FULLY UNDERSTAND WEIZMAN'S REACTION AND QUITE
AGREE WITH HIM THAT NABATIYYA WOULD BE THE NATUREL WAY TO GO
TO TIBNIN. PROBLEM IS THAT THAT ROUTE LIES THROUGH AREA IN
WHICH SYRIANS UNABLE EXERCISE CONTROL OVER PALESTINIANS FOR
REASONS WITH WHICH WEIZMAN ALREADY FAMILIAR.

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2. ALSO UNDERSTAND HIS IRRITATION WITH QUICK FUSE ON
LEBANESE CALL FOR ILMAC MEETING. BELIEVE LEBANESE FEAR
THAT IF THEY GIVE ANY LONGER FUSE WHOLE ARRANGEMENT WILL
COME APART IN THEIR HANDS. I AM GLAD THERE SEEMS TO BE AGREE-
MENT ON SUNDAY MEETING, AND WILL SO INFORM BOUTROS AS SOON AS
HE GETS UP FROM HIS NAP.

3. TEL AVIV CAN ASSURE WEIZMAN THAT GOL ALSO DOES NOT WANT TO SEE HADDAD DANGLING FROM A TREE. INTERNAL POLITICAL COMPLICATIONS WOULD BE EVEN MORE SERIOUS FOR LEBANESE THAN FOR ISRAELIS. THEY REALIZE THAT SUCCESS OF THIS OPERATION, WHICH HAS ASSUMED VITAL POLITICAL IMPORTANCE TO GOL, DEPENDS IN FINAL ANALYSIS ON SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION HADDAD PROBLEM. IF THEY FAIL, FAILURE WILL BE MASSIVE. I DO NOT HAVE UNBOUNDED FAITH IN LEBANESE ABILITY OFFER ARRANGEMENT HADDAD CAN ACCEPT BUT THINK THERE IS REASONABLE CHANCE THEY WILL DO SO.

3. WITH REGARD QUESTION IN PARA. 5 REFTEL ABOUT HOW SYRIANS WILL SECURE A ROUTE BETWEEN KFAR MISHKI AND KAWKABA, IT APPEARS THEY ARE GOING TO USE FATAH FOR THIS PURPOSE. ALL BOUTROS AND ABDO COULD SAY WHEN WE SAW THEM ON EVENING OF 26TH WAS THAT SYRIANS HAD ASSURED THEM THEY WOULD TAKE CARE OF PROBLEM. THEY SAID THEY DID NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHAT SYRIANS PLANNED TO DO. I HAVE JUST HAD VERY USEFUL CONVERSATION, HOWEVER, WITH NORWEGIAN CHARGE WHO REPORTS THAT NORWEGIAN DELEGATION WHICH WAS JUST HERE (GENERAL HAMRE AND MESSRS. HOLST AND ENGSTED) MET WITH PLO (ABU JIHAD, ABU WALID AND ABU JAAFAR) IN PAST FEW DAYS AND WERE TOLD THAT FATAH WAS BEEFING UP ITS PRESENCE IN THE KFAR MISHKI-KAWKABA AREA. PLO REPRESENTATIVES ALSO SAID UNIFIL SHOULD NOT SHOOT AT REJECTIONISTS BUT LEAVE THAT TO FATAH. NORWEGIAN CHARGE AND FRENCH AMBASSADOR ADVISE
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THAT THEIR CONTACTS REPORT THAT PLO IS PREPARED TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH MOVE TO SOUTH.

4. WITH REGARD ATTITUDES CHRISTIAN MILITIAS, FRENCH AMBASSADOR TELLS ME THEY HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH BOTH GEMAYELS AND CHAMOUNS AND BOTH HAVE INDICATED WILLINGNESS COOPERATE (ALTHOUGH THIS MORNING'S PRESS REPORTS BASHIR GEMAYEL SAYS ARMY WILL NOT MOVE TO SOUTH BECAUSE THERE IS NO ARMY). MILITIAS' ATTITUDES WILL OF COURSE BE CRUCIAL DURING ONE STRETCH OF ARMY'S MOVEMENT--FROM KAWKABA TO TAYBEH. WE HERE ARE IN NO POSITION TO JUDGE CHANCES FOR TROUBLE IN THAT AREA, AND IT IS THERE THAT ISRAELI COOPERATION IS MOST IMPORTANT.
PARKER

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